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<213> ORGANISM: primer <400> SEQUENCE: 6 21 gaaaccagct tcaaggcact g <210> SEQ ID NO 7 <211> LENGTH: 21 <212> TYPE: DNA <213> ORGANISM: primer <400> SEOUENCE: 7 21 attcagtgcc atgggacata g

What is claimed is:

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- 1. A method comprising:
- a) providing a reaction mixture comprising a single stranded nucleic acid template, a primer having at least 15 bases which is complementary to a portion of the single stranded nucleic acid template and a plurality of oligonucleotide 5'-monophosphates wherein each olithan 10 bases and wherein each of the oligonucleotide 5'-monophosphates is labeled;
- b) hybridizing the primer with the template under conditions which permit stable hybridization of the primer but not stable hybridization of the oligonucleotide 5'-monophosphates to form a primer-template hybrid having a single stranded region and a double stranded region:
- oligonucleotide 5'-monophosphates in a contiguous manner onto the primer in one continuous process under conditions which permit stable hybridization of the primer but not stable hybridization of the oligonucleotide 5'-monophosphates to extend the double stranded region and synthesize a labeled complementary nucleic acid strand, wherein ligation of oligonucleotide 5'-monophosphates only occurs in the presence of the hybridized primer.
- 2. The method of claim 1 wherein each of the plurality of oligonucleotide 5'-monophosphates consists of 5 bases.
- 3. The method of claim 1 wherein each of the plurality of oligonucleotide 5'-monophosphates is of identical length.
- 4. The method of claim 1 wherein some of the plurality of 50 oligonucleotide 5'-monophosphates contain a different number of bases from other of the plurality of oligonucleotide 5'-monophosphates.
- 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the ligation is performed by means of a ligase enzyme.
- 6. The method of claim 5 wherein the ligase enzyme is selected from T4 ligase, T7 ligase, Tth ligase, Taq ligase and E. coli DNA ligase.
- 7. The method of claim 5 wherein the ligase enzyme is T4 DNA ligase.
- 8. The method of claim 1 wherein the primer is immobilized onto a solid phase.
- 9. The method of claim 1 wherein the primer is in a
- 10. The method of claim 1 further comprising separating 65 the labeled complementary nucleic acid strand from the template.

- 11. The method of claim 1 wherein each labeled oligonucleotide 5'-monophosphate is labeled with the same label.
- 12. The method of claim 1 wherein each oligonucleotide 5'-monophosphate is labeled with a label that is specific for and identifies that oligonucleotide 5'-monophosphate.
- 13. The method of claim 1 wherein each oligonucleotide 5'-monophosphate contains 1 label.
- 14. The method of claim 1 wherein each label is a gonucleotide 5'-monophosphate consists of not more 25 detectable label selected from radioisotopes, chemiluminescent labels, fluorescent labels, colorimetric labels and enzymes.
  - 15. The method of claim 1 wherein each label is selected from binding proteins, antigens, antibodies, haptens and 30 oligonucleotides.
    - 16. The method of claim 1 further comprising the incorporation of at least one nonextendable oligomer the ligation of which terminates synthesis of the nucleic acid strand.
- 17. The method of claim 16 wherein each of the nonexc) ligating more than one of the plurality of labeled 35 tendable oligomers is selected from oligomers which have a dideoxy base at the 3'-end, oligomers which have a blocked 3'-OH group at the 3'-end and oligomers which lack a phosphate group at the 5'-end.
  - 18. The method of claim 1 wherein the synthesis of the 40 labeled complementary nucleic acid strand synthesized in step c) is terminated at a predetermined position by excluding from the plurality of oligonucleotide 5'-monophosphates at least one oligonucleotide 5'-monophosphate which is complementary to the single stranded nucleic acid template 45 and has a sequence necessary to extend the double stranded region.

19. The method of claim 1 wherein the synthesis of the strand of nucleic acid is unidirectional and proceeds by ligation to the 3' end of the primer.

- 20. The method of claim 1 wherein the primer contains a 5'-phosphate group and the synthesis of the strand of nucleic acid is unidirectional and proceeds by ligation to the 5' end of the primer.
- 21. The method of claim 1 wherein the primer contains a 5'-phosphate group and the synthesis of the strand of nucleic acid proceeds from both ends of the primer.
- 22. The method of claim 1 wherein the single stranded nucleic acid template has a segment of known sequence, wherein the primer is complementary to a portion of the segment of known sequence and wherein the plurality of labeled oligonucleotide 5'-monophosphates comprises a set of labeled oligonucleotide 5'-monophosphates selected to be complementary to a part of the segment of known sequence of the template adjacent to the portion of the segment of known sequence to which the primer is complementary.
- 23. A method for synthesizing a labeled double stranded nucleic acid wherein both strands are labeled comprising:

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- a) providing a reaction mixture comprising a double stranded nucleic acid template, a first primer which is complementary to a region of a first strand of the template, a second primer which is complementary to a region of a second strand of the template, wherein both primers have at least 15 bases, and a plurality of labeled oligonucleotide 5'-monophosphates wherein each oligonucleotide 5'-monophosphate consists of not more than 10 bases and wherein each oligonucleotide 5'-monophosphate is labeled;
- b) separating the first and second strands of the double stranded nucleic acid;
- c) hybridizing the first and second primers with the separated strands under conditions which permit stable hybridization of the primer but not stable hybridization

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- of the oligonucleotide 5'-monophosphates to form first and second primer-template hybrids;
- d) ligating more than one of the plurality of labeled oligonucleotide 5'-monophosphates in a contiguous manner onto each primer-template hybrid in one continuous process under conditions which permit stable hybridization of the primer but not stable hybridization of the oligonucleotide 5'-monophosphates to extend the first and second primers thereby producing double stranded nucleic acid, wherein ligation of oligonucleotide 5'-monophosphates only occurs in the presence of the hybridized primer; and e) repeating steps b-d at least once, thereby synthesizing a labeled double stranded nucleic acid wherein both strands are labeled.

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